

**PERSPECTIVES**

Frank Platell

# Their place in the sun

**M**ORE and more people responding to environmental concerns would like a solar home but are reluctant to quit their existing residence. It can be a wrench to leave long-established friends or a premium area close to water and schools.

But the trauma may not be necessary, as Gordon and Margaret Eyres have shown in the conversion of their Peppermint Grove home.

A simple but big square solarium links their home with the double garage in front on a private battle-axe block. The solar benefits are significant at this time of the year with the whole area bathed in sunlight and the warm air flowing indoors to the front of the home.

The garden ambience contributes a lot to the charm and tranquillity of the home and there is added security when going to and from the garage.

"The living space has been enlarged and the solarium is so comfortable," Gordon said. "It is now in full sunlight with the solar pergola and it has been made rain-proof with the clear corrugated sheeting on top.

"It is also comfortable in the hot summer because we get the sea breeze virtually every day. The air flow is controlled by high openings in the windows.

"It is such a versatile space and is great when we get a mob of country kids (grandchildren) coming here from the farm. It is so easy to put up the extra bunks and folding beds for them."

Margaret was the main motivator for the solarium after being long active with a solar housing interest group. She had learnt a lot on passive-solar principles by touring conforming Perth homes and could see the potential for their home and its true north orientation.

She wanted to introduce a lighter, brighter space with a passive-solar addition and worked with architect Garry Baverstock to develop the 8m-square solarium. This so carefully duplicates the modular design of the home that it looks as though it could have been in the original dwelling,

especially with the red cedar detailing. The lofty space with its clerestory glazing is paved in a rustic red brick to a herringbone pattern. The pergola has louvres at 35 degrees, which allow full penetration from the low-angled winter sun but give complete shade in summer when the sun is overhead.

The planting in garden strips and in pot plants also responds to the environment with lush growth all around. Sliding glass doors give easy access to gardens and to walkways around the home.

**The house is not open for inspection but details can be discussed with architect Garry Baverstock on 9386 3888.**

